

Plans

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

or the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1917.

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WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1917.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of your district for the year 1917.

The civilian population for the district has been estimated by the Registrar General at the figures 3,181, for purposes of the birth-rate, and 2,854 for the death-rate.

HOUSING and TOWN PLANNING:

During the year the Sanitary Inspector has visited 37 houses, 10 of which were found to be defective. These defects were remedied without making closing orders. The general character of the defects found to exist were faults in the roofs, windows and floors, and consequent dampness.

The Sanitary Inspector has been designated an officer to undertake this special inspection of houses, and to keep the records stipulated by Art. 2. The procedure to be adopted for this inspection of your district as required by Art. 1 of the Regulations of 2nd Sept., 1910, has been determined, and a list of dwelling houses, the early inspection of which is desirable, has been obtained.

None of the faulty dwelling houses were considered unfit for human habitation, no representations were made with a view to making closing orders, and no dwelling house has been demolished. There are at present a number of dwelling houses empty in the district. No new houses have been built during the year.

BIRTHS:

For the year under report there were 44 births; 20 males and 24 females; giving a birth-rate of 13.83. This is the lowest number of births in any year under record.

One birth, a boy, was illegitimate.

DEATHS:

During the year 38 deaths, 22 males and 16 females, were registered, giving a death-rate of 13.66. The commonest causes of death were Pneumonia, four cases; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, four cases; Influenza, four cases; Heart Disease, three cases; Cancer, three cases; Measles, one case; Scarlet Fever, one case; Whooping Cough, one case.

Eleven residents were above the age of 70 at death. In the year 1916 the average age at death was 64.3. For the five years previous to 1916 it was 59.1. This year it is also 64.3


INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Since the infantile mortality is calculated from the birth-rate a low birth-rate means a high infant death-rate if any deaths occur under one year of age.

During the year 1917, three children, all boys, died before reaching the age of one, the figures and sex being exactly the same as the previous year. These three deaths with the low birth-rate obtaining this year, give an infantile death-rate of 68.18.

Last year the same number of deaths gave an infantile death-rate of 66.6. One of the deaths was caused by accident, and one from defects at birth.

This shows the necessity for conserving infant life where you have a falling birth-rate. The voluntary work amongst mothers and children begun some years ago in the district is being continued with good results. .



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INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

During the year three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, one case ending fatally. One case of Diphtheria was notified and four notifications of the various forms of Tuberculosis were received. There were three cases of Erysipelas and one of Typhoid Fever. Eighty cases of Measles were notified, with one death.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL:

It was not considered necessary to open the Hospital during the year.

SCHOOL CLOSURE:

The Withnell Fold Wesleyan School was closed from March 6th to April 30th, owing to an outbreak of measles amongst the scholars.

MEAT INSPECTION:

The carcase of one pig was found to be tubercular and most of it was destroyed.

COWSHEDS and PIGGERIES:

These have been inspected at various times.

NUISANCES:

I had for the second year in succession to make a special inspection and to write a special report on the condition of the water supply at the various farms in the Abbey Village district. Since then some of the farms in question have been supplied by the Local Authority.

In the department of the Inspector of Nuisances 20 informal notices were served. In each case the nuisance was abated without any legal proceeding.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. WALKER MACLEAN.

